

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 TRSE-00 EB-11 COME-00

OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 IGA-02 /101 W

----- 097921

R 120751Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6568

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USSAG

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 7658

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MAP, LA

SUBJECT: MILITARY POL SHORTAGE

REF: VIENTIANE 7406

1. IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUA TODAY I REVIEWED THE MEASURES TO CONSERVE POL WHICH PRESIDENT NIXON HAS PUT INTO EFFECT AND INFORMED HIM THAT THIS MISSION WAS REDUCING ITS POL CONSUMPTION IMMEDIATELY BY ABOUT 20 PERCENT. I INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT CUTBACKS OF USG FINANCED POL TO SOME AID-SUPPORTED PROJECTS AND TO FAR WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ONCE. I POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW POL ALLOCATIONS WOULD NOT AT THIS TIME IMPAIR RLG AIRLIFT CAPABILITY BUT THAT A VERY SERIOUS REDUCTION IN THE USE OF VEHICLES WOULD HAVE TO BE ORDERED.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY DIRECTED THAT EVERY CONCEIVABLE STEP BE TAKEN TO REDUCE FUEL CONSUMPTION AND THAT APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN
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GIVEN TO THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE RAISING THE COMMERCIAL PRICE OF GASOLINE IN LAOS IN

THE NEXT FEW DAYS COMMENSURATE WITH THE PRICE INCREASE
IN THAILAND SO AS TO AVOID ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN PETROL.
HE ADDED THAT HE HAD REQUESTED THE PREPARATION OF A GAS
RATIONING SYSTEM. SINCE IT SEEMS TO ME MOST UNLIKELY
THAT ANY RATIONING SYSTEM WOULD WORK IN THIS COUNTRY,
I TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT IN MY VIEW SUCH A RATIONING
SCHEME WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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